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Item 5 of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

Letter dated 21 December 2005** from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women***

The substantive session of 2005 of the Economic and Social Council, held in advance of the 2005 World Summit, was organized to address, inter alia, the various aspects of achieving the internationally agreed development goals. The Council thereat made a constructive contribution to the outcome of the World Summit.

The Council's 2005 high-level segment focused on the theme "Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities". The debate at the high-level segment highlighted the inherent connections among the social, economic and environmental dimensions of a comprehensive international development agenda. The members of the Council also underlined the need for promoting an integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcome. There was strong support for a central role for the Council in the follow-up and the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Given the exceptional nature of the circumstances in 2005 as discussions on the outcome of the World Summit were going on, the outcome of the high-level segment was a President's summary. In order to ensure that it was used as an input in the ongoing consultations on the World Summit outcome, I forwarded the summary to the President of the General Assembly. The World Summit has given a number of important mandates to the Council.

* E/CN.6/2006/1.
** Signed on 21 December 2005.
*** The submission of the present letter was delayed owing to the need for consultation with the secretariat of the Economic and Social Council.

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The Council's 2005 coordination segment also focused on a related theme entitled "Towards achieving internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration". Although this segment did not have a negotiated outcome, I did prepare a summary of the discussions. One of the key messages was that the Council and its subsidiary bodies should work as a system. With a view to addressing the promotion of integrated and coordinated implementation, a panel discussion with the chairpersons of the functional commissions and other subsidiary bodies of the Council was organized. A proposal was made for the President of the Council to hold a meeting in January with the chairpersons of the functional commissions so as to discuss the roles and agendas of the commissions and ensure better follow-up to the Council's guidance. I would like to explore this idea further.

I should like to reflect on some of the important proposals made by the Council concerning the functional commissions. A list of those resolutions adopted by the Council specifically calling for action by the functional commissions is attached for your reference in the annex to the present letter.

I should like to draw your particular attention to Council resolution 2005/48 of 27 July 2005 on the role of the Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, in which the Council welcomed the progress made in the review of the working methods of several functional commissions, and invited those functional commissions and other relevant subsidiary bodies that had not yet done so to continue to examine their methods of work and to submit their report to the Council in 2006; and also requested the commissions, in their reports, to clearly identify the operational implications of their work for consideration and appropriate action by the governing bodies of the United Nations funds and programmes.

I would also like to take this opportunity to inform you that the Council selected "Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development" as the theme for its 2006 high-level segment; and "Sustained economic growth for social development, including the eradication of poverty and hunger" as the theme for its 2006 coordination segment.

I would greatly appreciate it if the issues raised above could be brought to the attention of your functional commission for consideration and action and thank you for your active and continued collaboration.

In view of the ongoing discussion on the reform of the Council, the Council is expected to assume some new tasks as well as revitalize its existing activities, including by reconstituting its high-level segment. I hope that these and other anticipated changes will lead to further strengthening of the interactions among the functional commissions and the Council and to a more effective role of the Economic and Social Council system with respect to pursuing the common objective of advancing the United Nations development agenda.

(*Signed*) Munir **Akram**

Annex

Resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2005 in which the Council requested follow-up by the Commission on the Status of Women

Number	*Paragraph(s)*	*Title*
2005/43	6	Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women
2005/48	5 and 6	Role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits